

**California Department of Conservation
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

2000 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Madera

FIELD MAPPER(S): Jan Carey

PHOTOGRAPHY: 2 sources

- 1) **source:** NASA-Ames Research
 date: 8 Sept 1999
 scale: 1:130,000
 film type: CIR
 coverage gaps : Northeastern part of county is not covered.

- 2) **source:** SPOT satellite images
 date: 2000
 coverage gaps: none

WRITTEN OR ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 1998 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made while conducting the 2000 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

cities: none
 county: none
 others: none

➤ *personal contacts:* none

➤ *websites:* www.madera-county.com
 www.riverbendgolfcourse.com

1998-2000 CHANGES*: *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.*

➤ P, S, U → D:
13 changes.

The most notable urban development changes are the ~285 acre Riverbend Golf Club east of the city of Madera (Lanes Bridge quad 41-38) and the Madera Center Community College addition with its very modern and beautifully designed main building (Gregg quad 41-37).

➤ L, G, X → D:
7 changes.

Most notable are ~100 acres added to the Green Hills Golf Course and housing development north of the city of Madera (Berenda quad 40-35) and an ~80 acre housing project named Oak Creek in Coarsegold located in the northern part of the county (Ahwahnee quad 38-39).

➤ P, S, U → L, G:
5 changes.

These changes are primarily due to land being left idle for 3 or 4 update cycles. There is also land, considered unique (U) in the past, converted to irrigated pasture and therefore an L designation according to the local definition.

➤ P, S, U → X:
60 changes.

There were a lot of smaller changes in this category, usually averaging 10 to 20 acres each. These are primarily ag and industrial related structures, ranchettes, and parcels of land left idle for 3 or more updates.

➤ L, G, X → P, S, U:
25 changes.

There are some notable additions to these categories on the Berenda quad and in the eastern part of the county. Some additions, primarily vineyards and orchards, range from 300 to 500 acres or more.

UNUSUAL: *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2000.*

G → X: 3 changes. Low density housing, confined livestock and ag related structures.

L → X: 7 changes. Fallow 4 or more updates, ag related buildings.

L → G: 14 changes. Fallow 4 or more updates, cattle present in some.

D → U: 1 change. Orchard planted around prison.

X → P: 1 change. New irrigated ag.

G → L: 1 change: New ag, probably irrigated pasture.

X → L: 1 change: New irrigated pasture.

D → X: 1 change: Boundary adjustment, change housing density

U → P: 2 changes: Due to boundary adjustments and soil unit reclassification.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2002? Why?*

There may be additions to housing around the two new golf courses mentioned above. There should be more development around the Children's Hospital on the Lanes Bridge quad. There is a large portion of the farmland in the western part of the county that is not accessible by road.

OUT OF DATE BASE MAPS: *Please list any base maps used for update or publication of this county which are woefully out of date due to extensive new development, road construction, etc.*

No problem with the quads. The soil survey is quite old (1949 photos).

LABOR ESTIMATE: *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*

photo interpretation, start date: 11-13-01

photo interpretation, number of days: 9 days

ground truthing dates: 12-4-01 to 12-6-01

days for map compilation and clean up: 11 days

* **Note:** P = Prime Farmland; S = Farmland of Statewide Importance; U = Unique Farmland; L = Farmland of Local Importance; G = Grazing Land; D = Urban and Built-up Land; X = Other Land; W = Water Areas; I = Irrigated Farmland; N = Nonirrigated Farmland

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp